

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this Application:

Listing of Claims:

1. In a shell-and-tube type reactor adapted to circulate a heat medium having a solid point in the range of 50 - 250° C to the outside of the reaction tubes, a method for starting up the reactor characterized by introducing a gas of a temperature in the range of 100 – 400° C into the reaction tubes thereby initiating temperature elevation and then circulating the heat medium in a heated state to the outside of the reaction tubes wherein said heat medium is a niter.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said circulation of the heat medium is started after the temperature of said gas at the outlet of said reactor has reached a level in the range of 150 - 250° C.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said shell-and-tube reactor forms therein a plurality of chambers partitioned with an intermediate tube sheet.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said temperature elevation of the reaction chamber is initiated by introducing the gas at a temperature in the range of 100 - 400° C into the reaction tubes through chambers and then said temperature elevation is continued by circulating the heat medium in all the component chambers to the outside of the reaction tubes.

5. A method according to claim 3, wherein said temperature elevation of the reaction chamber is initiated by introducing the gas at a temperature in the range of 100 - 400° C into the reaction tubes through chambers and then said temperature elevation is continued by circulating the heat medium in all the component chambers to the outside of the reaction tubes and circulating the heat medium further heated in at least one of the chambers to the outside of the reaction tubes.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the chamber in which the heat medium in the heated state is circulated adjoins the inlet for said gas.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously presented) A method for the production of (meth)acrylic acid and/or (meth)acrolein, characterized by supplying a raw material gas to said reactor after the method for starting up the device set forth in claim 1

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said niter comprises a fused salts mixture.

16. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said niter comprises one or more salts selected from the group consisting of sodium nitrites, sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate and mixture thereof.